Demand by Mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

2332. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grievances of Mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy;

(b) what are their grievances; whether it is related to pay scales and other working conditions as enjoyed by Government employees; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, have represented for improvement of their pay scales and other working conditions as enjoyed by Government employees. The improvement of service conditions relate to regularisation of services as Government employees, fixation of working hours, provision of medical benefits, payment of overtime allowance, providing employment to dependents of employees dying in harness and issue of identity cards.

(c) The pay scales of the mess workers have been revised to make them at par with the mess workers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. For this, a subsidy of Rs. 70 per month per probationer has been sanctioned which will go towards meeting the expenditure on amount of improved pay scales, CPF, medical facilities, gratuity etc.

The mess of the Academy is run by the Indian Forest Service probationers and is not a Government department. Hence, the mess workers cannot be treated as Government employees and their services cannot be regularised.

Extension of concessional excise duty to indigenous drug manufacturers

2333. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Central Board of Excise and Customs from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry during June, 1988 seeking extension of concessional excise duty of 25 per cent ad valorem to the indigenous manufacturers of finished products containing Hormones and Drugs listed in Customs Notification No. 27/88 (Customs) dated 1st March, 1988; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A representation has been received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry seeking reduction of customs duty on raw materials for manufacture of hormones and drugs listed in Notification No. 27/88-Customs dated the 1st March, 1988. The representation is being examined.

Increasing the production and sale of Janata Cloth

2334. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increasing demand for Janata cloth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production as well as sale of Janata cloth has declined; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the production and distribution of Janata cloth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

2335. [Transferred to the 19th August, 1988].

Agreement with Japan for double Texation avoidance

2336. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a double taxation avoidance agreement between India and Japan;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the provisions of this agreement the two Governments are supposed to keep each other informed of specific cases to avoid double taxation; and

(c) if so, what are the details of cases sent to the Government of India by the Japanese Government during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Article XII of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Japan provides that the competent authorities of the two countries shall exchange information available to them under their respective tax laws in the normal course of administration as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of the present agreement. This information will also include information for the prevention or detection of evasion or avoidance of the taxes which are the subject of the agreement. This agreement also provides that any information so exchanged shall be treated as secret but may be disclosed to persons (including a court or administrative body) concerned with the assessment, collection, enforcement or prosecution in respect of the taxes which are the subject of the Agreement or to persons with respect to whom the information relates.

The secrecy provision indicated above prohibits the disclosure of information so exchanged to persons other than those mentioned in the Agreement.

Limiting the period of continuity of officials in some branches of Nationalised Banks

2337. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of offices of nationalised banks who have managed to stay in New Delhi/Delhi for more than five years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take so that no officer of the nationalised banks should be retained in the same branch after a certain time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Information regarding number of officers of nationalised banks who have stayed in New Delhi/Delhi for more than 5 years is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Government have advised all public sector banks to rotate the officers every 3 years. Banks are implementing rotational transfer within their over-all administrative and operationl constraints.

Refund of Excess income tax amount

2338. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the outstanding refundable amount of income-tax paid in excess by the assessees pending clearance during the last financial year;

(b) by when the amount will be refunded to the assessees; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avoid inordinate delay in the refund of outstanding amount and streamlining the procedure in this regard?